



**U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement**

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News Release

ALGERIAN MAN CHARGED FOR LYING ABOUT AN AL QAEDA PLOT

INDIANAPOLIS—A 36-year-old Algerian national who fabricated information about a terrorist plot in an apparent effort to avoid deportation was charged for making false statements to a federal agency, following an investigation by U.S Immigration Customs Enforcement (ICE), the FBI and the Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF).

Susan W. Brooks, U. S. Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana, announced the charges yesterday against Indianapolis resident Ahmed Allali.

According to the criminal complaint, Allali allegedly lied to the FBI-JTTF throughout January when he told them that he knew and, in the late 1990's, resided overseas with, members of the Al Qaeda terrorist network. He also claimed to have traveled into the United States in 1998 with Al Qaeda members, and that early this year there was an Al Qaeda operational cell in the United States that was planning to detonate bombs in five major U.S. cities in early 2005. According to the complaint, Allali fabricated this story in an attempt to avoid deportation.

"The prevention of future terrorist attacks will occur by everyone being vigilant and coming forth with relevant information," said Brooks. "We encourage and welcome persons with legitimate information to come forward and indeed, we need the cooperation of all. However, unfortunately there are those who will bring forth false information that impedes our ability to identify those who may be planning future acts of terrorism. False reports drain already overburdened public safety agencies as well as create undue alarm at a time in this country where there is legitimate concern."

"This is an extreme case of crying wolf," said ICE Resident Agent-in-Charge Michelle Mangold. "Lies told to federal authorities will eventually be discovered, especially by federal agents trained to investigate and dig for the truth. Prosecuting these cases, as the U.S. Attorney Brooks is doing in this case, sends a strong signal that the consequences for fabricating information on terrorist organizations are severe."

Special Agent in Charge of the Indianapolis Field Office of the FBI Keith Lourdeau stated, "The FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force gathers and analyzes information in an effort to identify terrorist cells and prevent attacks. As part of the investigative and intelligence gathering process, it is necessary to determine the veracity and reliability of individuals who purport to have valuable information. The coordinated effort of federal, state and local law enforcement partners of the JTTF determined that the information in this case was false. Resources diverted by this hoax can now return to the important work of identifying, disrupting and dismantling terrorist organizations."

According to Assistant United States Attorney Sharon M. Jackson, who is prosecuting the case for the government, Allali faces a maximum possible prison sentence of 10 years and a maximum possible fine of \$250,000 on each of the three counts listed in the complaint. Allali is currently being held in Illinois on an immigration deportation warrant. An initial hearing will be scheduled before a U.S. Magistrate Judge in Indianapolis when Allali is transported here.

The criminal complaint is an allegation only, and the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty at trial or by guilty plea.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.